

## **Pereskia grandifolia**

Common Name(s): Rose Cactus

Synonym(s): *Cactus grandifolius*, *Cactus rosa*, *Pereskia ochncarpa*, *Rhodocactus grandifolius*, *Pereskia tampicana*, *Rhodocactus tampicanus*

Origin and Habitat: Brazil (Southern America from southernmost Ceará, Pernambuco (native and cultivated), central-eastern and south-eastern Bahia to southern Espírito Santo and south-western Minas Gerais. Perhaps it is also native to Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo. It is widely cultivated and ranges south to Santa Catarina and southeastern Mato Grosso. It is commonly introduced in the Neotropics. The natural range of this *Pereskia grandifolia* remains poorly known, probably through early destruction of its habitat and for the uncertainty as to its native status caused by its widespread introduction as a cultivated ornamental.



Habitat and Ecology: This is a humid/subhumid evergreen forest element. The species is widespread and widely cultivated. There is widespread habitat loss due to logging, expansion of urban areas and clearance of forest for agricultural expansion.

Cultivation and Propagation: Nearly indestructible, *Pereskia grandifolia* requires full sun or light shade (but withstand dense shade) and well drained soils, preferably rich neutral organic soils, but may tolerate acidic ones.

Growing rate: It is a fast grower, and will quickly become large landscape masterpieces in just a few years. It is a long lived plant and once established, it will be content in its position and with its soil for years.

Waterings: Water regularly during the active growing season from March to September. No water should ever be allowed to stand around the roots. Keep almost completely dry in winter. It is drought resistant, but leaves drop during drought.

Hardiness: Considered frost tender, but surprisingly cold hardy outdoors and also very sun hardy for a succulent plant. It likes warmth (recommended minimum winter temperature 10° C).

Maintenance: Can be pruned for shape and branching.

Uses: Often used for edges it is planted by pushing cutting into the ground, its spiny stem soon forming a capital barrier, sometimes grown as a climber, as a basket plant.

From: [http://www.ilifile.com/Encyclopedia/CACTI/Family/Cactaceae/19667/Pereskia\\_grandifolia](http://www.ilifile.com/Encyclopedia/CACTI/Family/Cactaceae/19667/Pereskia_grandifolia)